

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

# TRIBUTE TO RALPH RAPSON

## HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Ralph Rapson, one of the country's most influential architects. His Modernist designs were not only significant in the State of Minnesota but can be seen around the world. While I regret to report the recent passing of Ralph Rapson at the age of 93, I am grateful for his talent, his dedication and his passion; all of which we were lucky to have him share with the state of Minnesota.

Born in Alma, Michigan in 1914, Ralph earned his degree in architecture at the University of Michigan. In 1939 he designed a streamlined rocking chair that went on to bear his name, the Rapson Rapid Rocker. From 1942–1946 he taught at the Illinois Institute of Technology and then at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1946–1954.

Mr. Rapson's relationship with Minnesota began over 50 years ago when he came to the University of Minnesota to serve as the Dean of the Architecture School. From 1954–1984 as the Dean he went on to influence the lives and careers of many architecture and design students. Ralph Rapson's defining work was the innovative and asymmetrical themed former Guthrie Theater building across from the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Mr. Rapson's resume also includes the Rarig Center for Performing Arts on the University of Minnesota campus, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in St. Paul Park, the Riverside Plaza housing complex in Minneapolis and the former Pillsbury House in Wayzata and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Paul. He also designed the United States Embassies in Stockholm, Sweden and Copenhagen. Most recently Mr. Rapson's Minneapolis-based company had developed a line of prefabricated modern houses called the Rapson Greenbelt.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to express my condolences to those surviving Ralph Rapson: his son Rip of Birmingham, Mich., who is president of the Kresge Foundation and Toby, of Minneapolis, who is also an architect and six grandchildren. Mr. Rapson today we thank you.

# DOCUMENTARY ON PLIGHT OF NYC "GHOST WORKERS"

## HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of several journalists with the Queens Courier, a weekly newspaper in New York City, who wrote a four-part series on day laborers titled "Ghost Workers."

Courier staff writers Peter Davis, Noah Rosenberg, and Christina Santucci, with the help of Damian Ghigliotti and Joe Hirsch, documented for 3 months the histories, labor, challenges, and lives of this invisible population. Their excellent reporting gave us a necessary glimpse into the lives of these hard-working men and women and the hardships they face as day laborers.

Through their work these journalists remind us all of the essential role that the local press play in telling the stories often missed in the commotion of cable television and the 24-hour news cycle.

The four-part series by the Queens Courier provided readers with an accurate, relevant, and illuminating window into this important but underground workforce. The series showcased their hopes for a brighter future and the obstacles they encounter, including oftentimes dangerous working conditions. The series noted that a 2003 study found that 63 percent of day workers surveyed said that their bosses did not give them protective clothing or equipment and 12 percent said that they had been injured on a job site at least once in the past year.

It is the stories that they tell which should remind us all of the "facts on the ground"—the stories to inform and inspire our policy and legislative work. The stories that journalists like Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, and their colleagues tell illuminate the very best what journalism can be: informational and inspiring. It can change the world by making seen the invisible, teaching the unknown, and challenging the conventional wisdom.

We all should thank The Queens Courier, their editors, and reporters Davis, Rosenberg, Santucci, Ghigliotti, and Hirsch for their incredible work.

# NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

## HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of National Public Health Week, I rise today to focus attention on the effects of climate change on the health of the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Scientists from around the world have issued clear warnings that the Earth's temperature is rising as a result of the release of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere by human activity. Climate change negatively affects the environment in a fundamental way. It affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and it contributes to the spread of disease. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought, and stronger hurricanes further illustrate the dangers associated with climate change.

Climate change looms large for everyone in our Nation, but it disproportionately impacts our Nation's vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, the poor, and people diagnosed with chronic illness. These populations are not only most vulnerable to adverse health conditions as a result of climate change, they also lack the resources to mitigate the impact of these conditions on their daily lives.

We must act now to prevent dangerous, irreversible warming of our planet and to ensure a promising future for other generations. That is why I have joined as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1081, recognizing the week of April 7, 2008 to April 13, 2008, as "National Public Health Week" and designating the theme of the week as "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance." I have also cosponsored legislation offered by Representative HENRY WAXMAN that seeks to create a national framework for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

I want to congratulate Representative HILDA SOLIS and Representative WAXMAN for putting forward these important bills and for drawing attention to the threat of global climate change on public health.

# CONGRATULATING INDIANA STATE SENATOR TRAVIS HOLDMAN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SWEARING-IN

## HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2008*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the newest member of the Indiana State Senate. The sun has set on the long and proud legacy of one visionary leader, but a new dawn is rising in the Hoosier heartland.

Tomorrow at the Indiana Statehouse, surrounded by family and friends, Travis Holdman will raise his right hand to be sworn in as State Senator for Indiana's 19th District.

After his victory, Holdman said he had no acceptance speech prepared. He simply thanked the caucus and quoted Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with advisors they succeed." I'm sure he will receive a lot of counsel in the months and years ahead as he seeks to serve his constituents.

I've known Travis and his wife Becky for years. He has a wealth of business and political experience that will serve his constituents well.

Travis has been involved with banking for the past 15 years, serving as a bank CEO, bank holding CEO, and chairman of the board. Previously, he spent 6 years as a deputy prosecutor in Wells County.

Travis has served as both chairman and vice chairman of the Wells County GOP for the past 12 years. Most recently he served on the Wells County Council.

Travis and Becky are also leaders in a number of civic and community activities. At the Zanesville United Methodist Church, they volunteer for the UPWARD sports ministry. Travis serves on the board of trustees for Huntington University and has worked with Youth for Christ student ministry.

Travis was the youngest of eight children and grew up in a poor but hard-working family of farmers. He will tell you that his parents instilled in him five core values: traditional family values, conservative political views, "Hoosier common sense," a Judeo-Christian worldview, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, no one will ever fill Senator David Ford's shoes, but Indiana will be well served by Senator Travis Holdman.